

REMARKS

The holding of allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the words "comprising" and "comprise." Applicant respectfully submits that this change does not narrow the claim and in fact broadens it. This change was not in response to any rejection.

Claim 1 has been further amended to include paragraph structure with bullets for improved legibility. Applicant respectfully submits that this change does not change the scope of the claim and therefore should not result in any filewrapper estoppel.

New claims 9-12 restore cancelled multiple dependencies that were present in the original claim 6.

Section Headings

Applicant respectfully declines to add the optional section headings.

Art rejections

The art rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant will confine his remarks to those portions of the references cited by the Examiner, except as otherwise indicated. Applicant makes no representation as to the contents of other portions of the references.

Any of the Examiner's rejections and/or points of argument that are not addressed below would appear to be moot in view of the following. Nevertheless, Applicant reserves the right to respond to those rejections and arguments and to advance additional arguments at a later date. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

REMARKS

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, detecting the presence of a surface and controlling delivery in response to such detection.

Against this recitation, the Examiner cites Netten '579. In this reference, the iron does not detect the presence of the fabric. Instead, it detects temperature of the fabric, which has already been present for some time. The steam is stopped when the temperature is too high. Assuming *arguendo* that stopping the steam falls within the recitation of "controlling release," which is not entirely clear, it is still not controlling in response to detection of a surface, but rather of temperature of the surface. Applicant accordingly respectfully submits that the Examiner has failed to make a *prima facie* case against claim 1.

New Claims 7 & 8

New independent claim 7 has been added, which even more clearly distinguishes over the reference. The claim recites means, responsive to the sensing means, for triggering release of at least one substance onto the surface, responsive to sensing of the presence of the surface, the substance being useful in ironing. Stopping release per the reference clearly fails to fall within the limitation of "triggering release" per this claim.

New claim 8 depends from claim 7 and adds limitations relation to motion detection thereto.

REMARKS

Claim 2

This claim recites a movable spring-loaded contact element. The element activates a switch for generating the signal when the soleplate is positioned against the surface and thus depresses the element.

Against this recitation the Examiner cites Van der Meer. Van der Meer relates to "Coffee-Making Apparatus," not to an iron. One of ordinary skill in the art would not look to a coffee making apparatus to solve problems relating to irons.

Moreover, The Examiner cites a temperature sensor 28 that activates a switch. This fails to teach or suggest a switch that generates a signal when a soleplate is positioned against a surface and depresses a contact element, unlike the claimed invention.

Applicant accordingly respectfully submits that the Examiner has failed to make a *prima facie* case against claim 2.

Claim 6

Claim 6 recites, *inter alia*, a motion sensor. Against this limitation, the Examiner applies Netten '133. The Examiner states that element 24 is a motion sensor. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner mischaracterizes the reference. Applicant has read the description of element 24 at col. 2, lines 49-53 and finds the description to be a hand sensor, not a motion sensor. It detects the presence or absence of a user's hand. Applicant accordingly respectfully submits that the Examiner has failed to present a *prima facie* case against claim 6.

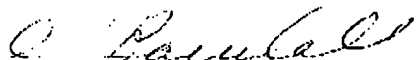
Please charge any fees other than the issue fee to deposit account 14-1270. Please credit any overpayments to the same account.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully submits that he has addressed each issue raised by the Examiner — except for any that were skipped as moot — and that the application is accordingly in condition for allowance. Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to	
Mail Stop _____ Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria VA 22313-1450	
On _____	(date)
By _____	(signature)

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Anne E. Barschall, Reg. No. 31,089
Tel. no. 914-332-1019
Fax no. 914-332-7719
Date of printing: March 20, 2006